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INVESTIGATIVE KBI22-167/50

Report Date: 04/02/2022

Primary Information

Description: INTERVIEW WITH JOPLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT SNIPER DETECTIVE KEATON SIEBENALER
Occurrence From: 04/01/2022 11:45
Occurrence To: 04/01/2022 13:00
Dissemination Code: RESTRICTED (NORMAL)
Reporting LEO: MANESS, ANTHONY (738 / STAFF / KANSAS BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION)
Backup LEO: FARRIS, CHRISTOPHER (191 / STAFF / KANSAS BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION)
Report Status: Approved
Report Status Date: 04/13/2022
Approved By: ROSEBROUGH, STEPHEN (178 / KANSAS BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION)

Address #1 - OCCURRED AT #1 - 821 N BROADWAY ST

Primary Information

Address: 821 N BROADWAY ST KANSAS BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION REGIONAL OFFICE, PITTSBURG, KANSAS 66762
UNITED STATES
Description: KANSAS BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION REGIONAL OFFICE
REGION: SOUTHEAST

Narrative begins on the following page.



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On April 1, 2022, at approximately 11:55 a.m., KANSAS BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (KBI) Special Agent (SA) Anthony MANESS and Senior Special Agent (SSA) Christopher FARRIS met with Keaton SIEBENALER, a detective with the JOPLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT (JPD) as well as his attorney, Sean MCCAULEY. SIEBENALER is a sniper with the JPD Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team. This interview occurred at the KBI office in Pittsburg, located at 821 N Broadway. The interview was audio and video recorded and a copy of the recording is attached to this report. This report is meant to provide a summary of the interview. Further information may be obtained by reviewing the recording.

SSA FARRIS began the interview by confirming Detective SIEBENALER knew he was under no obligation to cooperate with the investigation and he was there voluntarily. SSA FARRIS also made sure Detective SIEBENALER was aware he could stop the interview if he needed to.

Detective SIEBENALER has worked for the JPD for a little over six years and he began his law enforcement career when he started with the JPD. Detective SIEBENALER had been a part of the SWAT team for approximately five years and had served as the sniper team leader for two years.

SSA FARRIS then began to ask questions specifically related to the sniper position. SSA FARRIS asked about advanced training Detective SIEBENALER received. Detective SIEBENALER said he completed the Basic SWAT School and Sniper School hosted by the JPD, as well as having completed the KCMOTA Advanced Sniper Course at Camp Dodge, Iowa. The initial two courses were forty hours in length and instructed by JPD officers. Detective SIEBENALER said he was an entry team member for a little over a year before he was assigned to the sniper unit. After he joined the sniper unit was when he attended the basic sniper course. Detective SIEBENALER believed he attended the Advanced Sniper School in 2019 and it too was a forty hour school.

SSA FARRIS asked about continuing education for snipers and SWAT and DETECTIVE SIEBENALER said it was completed on a monthly basis. Detective SIEBENALER also said there were times the sniper team would train with the entry teams and others they would do something different. Detective SIEBENALER said training was not completed the month prior due to other circumstances and staffing. Additionally, prior to an ammunition shortage, Detective SIEBENALER said the snipers did a monthly four hour night shoot as well, as staffing and ammunition availability allowed. SSA FARRIS asked about a desired number of hours of training per month and Detective SIEBENALER replied their goal was eight hours a month. Additionally, when asked, Detective SIEBENALER confirmed the JPD range allowed for shooting out to two hundred yards.

SSA FARRIS asked if Detective SIEBENALER was responsible for monthly training plans for the snipers and this was confirmed. Detective SIEBENALER said they were currently down a



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sniper because of a resignation and personnel training. This left them with three snipers for the last two to three months.

SSA FARRIS asked about a standard qualification course for the Sniper team and Detective SIEBENALER provided the following:

- 100 yard cold bore shot – This entails picking up the rifle, running to the target, running back to the 100 yard line and taking a cold bore shot within one minute and fifteen seconds.
- A cover safe, cover fire drill
- A hostage left, hostage right drill
- Three diamonds
- Run from 100 yards to 50 yards and shoot anything but prone
- Run from 50 yards to 25 yards and shoot three rounds, generally standing or kneeling, which has to be done in one minute and forty five seconds
- From 25 yards run to the two hundred yard line and shoot three rounds. Detective SIEBENALER believed this was to be done in one minute forty five seconds.

To pass the course of thirteen rounds, the snipers were not allowed to miss more than two shots. Additionally, if the sniper hit the hostage, they were disqualified immediately. While not done monthly, the course of fire had to be completed by the snipers on the team six out of the twelve monthly training sessions.

SSA FARRIS asked about ammunition used, and Detective SIEBENALER identified it as a Black Hills Gold 180 grain bonded round. This is the duty round and also used for the qualification course. Detective SIEBENALER could not recall the last time he completed the qualification course.

SSA FARRIS said he understood Detective SIEBENALER to explain with the staffing and ammunition issues the snipers were unable to train in February of 2022. SSA FARRIS asked if the team trained in January of 2022. Detective SIEBENALER did not believe the snipers trained, but was not certain.

SSA FARRIS asked about the rifle Detective SIEBENALER was issued by the JPD. Detective SIEBENALER said it was an FN SLP Action .308 caliber. He further described it as a Crescent Custom Built gun with a Manners stock, with a 20 inch barrel. Additional description of the rifle included it being equipped with a Sound Tech suppressor, a Jewell trigger, and a Nightforce 5.5 X 22 power scope with Badger Basin Rings. SSA FARRIS confirmed the rifle and all of the equipment on it was issued to Detective SIEBENALER by the JPD.



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Detective SIEBENALER said this was the rifle he used the entire time he was assigned to the sniper team. SSA FARRIS asked about a log book for the rifle, which Detective SIEBENALER acknowledged he maintained. SSA FARRIS asked how many rounds were fired through the rifle and Detective SIEBENALER said he fired in the proximity of seven to eight hundred rounds during the time it was assigned to him. He was uncertain how many round were fired through it by officers it was previously assigned to.

Detective SIEBENALER was asked about the device mounted in front of the scope on the rifle. Detective SIEBENALER identified it as a PVS 22, which was a night vision device, however prior to utilizing the rifle on March 26, 2022 Detective SIEBENALER removed it and placed it in his left cargo pocket. Detective SIEBENALER said he stored the rifle with the PVS 22 mounted but took it off.

SSA FARRIS asked if the Black Hills Gold were the only duty rounds they used and Detective SIEBENALER said they were. He continued they would use Hornady 168 grain bullets for training outside of qualification and missions.

When asked about policies related to SWAT, Detective SIEBENALER talked of the selection process for the SWAT team and Sniper team. SSA FARRIS asked about the rifle was told it was magazine fed, with a ten round as well as a five round magazine. SSA FARRIS asked about sniper specific policies and Detective SIEBENALER said he was not sure. When asked about sniper practices prior to departure from the range, Detective SIEBENALER said he would reset everything is "bottomed out" or set to zero and he would set his scope at five below power. Detective SIEBENALER would close the bolt with the trigger depressed so the firing pin was in the forward position. He would then tighten the suppressor and load a ten round magazine.

SSA FARRIS asked how the rifle was stored and Detective SIEBENALER said it was stored in a drag bag inside of his garage. Detective SIEBENALER said every time he shot the rifle, the suppressor was attached. Detective SIEBENALER said when he would pull the rifle out of the bag, he checked the suppressor and made sure everything was set at zero, and pull of the PVS 22 unless the circumstances dictated the need for it. During training, the PVS 22 was something he used for the night shoot.

SSA FARRIS asked about the night of March 26, 2022, and Detective SIEBENALER said he was off duty. Detective SIEBENALER said he would have slept at least six hours the night of March 25, 2022, which was normal for him.

SA MANESS asked about the monthly training reporting. Detective SIEBENALER said if the snipers did a different training from the entry team he would do an agenda and post training synopsis, which were forwarded to the SWAT commander.

SSA FARRIS asked if a sniper failed to qualify, if they were allowed to re-shoot and Detective SIEBENALER said they were. Detective SIEBENALER said he did not recall a sniper ever



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failing the second attempt. He continued if that did occur, he believed it would be handled similarly to a firearms instructor not passing and there would be remedial training. Detective SIEBENALER said he was also a firearms instructor and completed the MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL firearms instructor course. This course covered the M4, shotgun, and pistol. Detective SIEBENALER said he had always passed his sniper qualification course.

At this point in the interview SA MANESS asked Detective SIEBENALER to tell him about the evening of March 26, 2022, beginning with when he was notified of the incident. Detective SIEBENALER said he was notified while he was out with his family so he had to drive home. On the way, he notified those SWAT officers under him. He was contacted by one of his snipers and told they were unavailable. The other two snipers, Logan BOWLINE and Thomas MAYFIELD both said they were available and would be responding.

While getting ready, Detective SIEBENALER received a telephone call from SWAT Commander, Sergeant Andrew BLAIR. BLAIR informed Detective SIEBENALER there were shots fired, the wife was likely dead on the front porch, there was a two year old inside, likely a hostage situation and Detective SIEBENALER needed to get his "head right". Sergeant BLAIR instructed Detective SIEBENALER to respond directly to the location to help remediate the situation.

Upon arrival in Baxter Springs, Kansas, Detective SIEBENALER got the rifle out from behind his seat and ran up to the command post. Detective SIEBENALER then realized he did not have his vest or his radio communication equipment on so he set the rifle bag down and returned to the truck to get the equipment. As he was returning back to the command post he heard a volley of shots ring out from the suspect. Sergeant BLAIR instructed Detective SIEBENALER where to deploy so he got his rifle out of the bag with assistance and checked the suppressor. Detective SIEBENALER said he was assigned to the west side of the house south of the trailer.

Detective SIEBENALER took up a prone behind the rifle. Detective SIEBENALER said he removed the PVS 22 on his approach because he could see the scene was fairly well illuminated. He placed the device in his cargo pocket. Detective SIEBENALER confirmed everything was set to zero and then adjusted his magnification and parallax. Detective SIEBENALER said he heard officers nearby and used his hood to block their lights from affecting his vision.

Detective SIEBENALER said he began to observe the trailer. Detective SIEBENALER said his timeline was a little fuzzy but he recalled calling Sergeant BLAIR. Detective SIEBENALER said he wanted to make sure if the suspect presented himself, he was authorized to take the shot, and Sergeant BLAIR said yes, he was not to give the guy a chance to leave the trailer.

Detective SIEBENALER said he kept the trailer under observation, and at one point numerous rounds were fired out the front door on the northwest side of the trailer. Detective



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SIBENALER said he was aware the other two snipers were deployed to cover that position and had a view of the front door area.

Detective SIEBENALER said he was aware armored vehicles were responding to the scene. As they were approaching, Detective SIEBENALER heard four or five shots fired out of the south west side of the trailer. While looking at the window of the slide out, he observed something appear for a second. He was unable to tell what it was but it was in the far left side of the window frame. This was at the same time he heard the shots being fired. These bullets hit the trees behind him and to the left.

Detective SIEBENALER said he maintained observation of the window, but previously received a photograph of the male subject from Sergeant BLAIR and a CHEROKEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE (CKSO) detective, so he knew it was a white male with dark colored hair. It was confirmed with Sergeant BLAIR there was only one white male in the camper with a child.

After the second volley of shots, Detective SIEBENALER said he saw a white male walk from left to right in the window. This lasted only a second and approximately two to three seconds later the interior of the trailer went dark. Just as quickly, the lights came on and the male appeared to walk from right to left. The male stopped on the left side of the frame of the window. Detective SIEBENALER said he was presented with the suspect's upper torso and arm, and Detective SIEBENALER knew it was that because he could see the triangle of light between his torso and his arm. Detective SIEBENALER said he aimed on the left side of the frame of the window without striking the frame, then aimed up to where he thought would be the suspect's pectoral region and fired one round. Detective SIEBENALER reloaded and seconds later, there was a muffled shot. This was confirmed by the other two snipers.

Detective SIBENALER stayed in position for some time, but called Sergeant BLAIR and spoke to the BAXTER SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT Chief Brian HENDERSON, who previously retired from JPD as the SWAT Commander. Detective SIEBENALER asked Chief HENDERSON how the child was and was told it was believed the child was still whining in the background, but he would let him know if he received any new information.

While still in position, but after Detective SIEBENALER fired the shot, and KANSAS HIGHWAY PATROL (KHP) Trooper arrived at Detective SIEBENALER'S location. After an unsuccessful attempt to contact Sergeant BLAIR, Detective SIEBENALER finally spoke with Sergeant BLAIR who instructed him to come to the command post with his rifle.

Once Detective SIEBENALER was at the command post, a CKSO detective who previously worked for the JPD went to take Detective SIEBENALER'S rifle. Detective SIBENALER removed the magazine, took the round out and closed the bolt on an empty chamber. After assisting the detective with some difficulties with the magazine, Detective SIEBENALER placed the PVS 22 back on the rifle and then took his vest off. He was then pulled into the ambulance by the CKSO detective and a JPD negotiator who then told Detective



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SIEBENALER he "shot the kid". Detective SIEBENALER said he was probably distraught and just kept saying "I'm screwed".

Detective SIBENALER said he reiterated the target he was presented with and what he saw when he shot and he did not see a child "while pulling the trigger, while in the window". They were then asked to exit the ambulance, as it was thought the ambulance would be needed to transport the juvenile. Detective SIEBENALER proceeded to then sit in his truck with the negotiator where several officers approached him and placed a hand on him.

SA MANESS asked Detective SIEBENALER for clarification on what Detective SIEBENALER saw for a sight picture. The movement Detective SIEBENALER saw was within the one window and not between two different windows. Additionally, Detective SIEBENALER said he saw what appeared to be where the suspect's shoulder and neck met, and reiterated the concept of the triangle of light between the shoulder and torso. SSA FARRIS asked if this meant the subject was facing him. Detective SIEBENALER said the lights of the camper were behind him so he could see a silhouette. When the subject was walking, he could see it was a white male in dark colored clothing, but when Detective SIBENALER fired the shot he was unable to see the subjects head.

SA MANESS asked about window coverings Detective SIEBENALER saw and none were recalled. Detective SIEBENALER said he could see cabinets in the trailer at the top of the window frame. SA MANESS asked if the appearance of the window changed while the lights were out and Detective SIEBENALER said it had not.

SA MANESS asked for clarification on the issue Detective SIEBENALER mentioned involving the magazine and confirmed it was not an equipment issue, but instead a handling issue by the CKSO detective.

SA MANESS confirmed Detective SIEBENALER talked about the shots coming from the slide out. Detective SIBENALER said he was unsure if the suspect was shooting through the trailer or out a window but he heard the shots being fired in his direction. When asked about the path of the projectiles, Detective SIEBENALER said he had been shot at before so he was familiar with the sound of bullets "whipping" through the air and that was how he knew shots were being fired in his direction.

SA MANESS asked for clarification of the layout of the camper and Detective SIBENALER'S attorney provided him with a previously drawn layout of the scene. Detective SIEBENALER marked North on the paper, consistent with the layout of the scene. Detective SIBENALER pointed out locations of the command, where he was, and where rounds were being fired from.

SSA FARRIS asked about range finding device being issued and Detective SIEBENALER said he was issued one. When asked, he said he did not use it that night. Detective SIEBENALER was asked about radio traffic after taking the shot, and Detective



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SIEBENALER said he put over the radio he took a shot, but was unsure of the specific wording he used.

SSA FARRIS asked for more information on the KHP Trooper who arrived. Detective SIBENALER said he believed his name was Daniel, but the trooper was not aware Detective SIEBENALER had fired a round. Detective SIEBENALER told him and the target he was presented. The Trooper then relayed the information a shot had been fired by Detective SIEBENALER. SSA FARRIS also confirmed Detective SIEBENALER was alone and had no other swat operators with him, which was not a common practice for JPD SWAT.

SSA FARRIS asked if there was anything else Detective SIEBENALER believed investigators needed to know and Detective SIEBENALER'S attorney, MCCAULEY, said he had a question about the communications because he wanted Detective SIEBENALER to clarify who he was communicating with. Detective SIEBENALER said he was communicating with the command post and other SWAT members. Detective SIEBENALER said the other communications involved the positioning of other SWAT units but he did not hear any of the details of what was in the trailer. SSA FARRIS asked if their frequency was still reaching JPD Dispatch and Detective SIEBENALER said the transmissions were broken, but he could still hear some traffic.

SA MANESS asked again if there was anything Detective SIEBENALER wanted to share and Detective SIEBENALER explained he looked at the height of the window and the distance away from the window the subject was. He attempted to aim so the rise of the bullet would strike the subject center mass. SSA FARRIS asked how Detective SIEBENALER measured the height of the window and was told he reduced the magnification of his optic. Detective SIEBENALER then saw a propane tank and used his familiarity with their average height to estimate where he needed to fire to strike the male in center mass. SSA FARRIS asked if there was anything Detective SIEBENALER recalled about the sight picture that confirmed he had the correct target. Detective SIEBENALER said he knew it was an adult male with dark hair and the suspect was the only adult male walking around in there. He then reiterated the triangle of light that he used in his aiming.

SA MANESS asked again about any window coverings and Detective SIEBENALER said he did not see any. He said he believed the right side of the window had a screen, but he could not see the right side. Detective SIEBENALER confirmed he was saying the left side of the window, where he shot, was glass.

SA MANESS asked about the cabinets Detective SIBENALER reported seeing and he clarified he thought they were, but he was uncertain. He only knew there were dark objects back there. Additionally, when asked by SSA FARRIS about clothing, Detective SIEBENALER said he was only able to tell the suspect was wearing a dark colored shirt.

As the conversation concluded, SSA FARRIS informed Detective SIEBENALER the investigation showed the round fired by Detective SIEBENALER was the shot that killed the



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juvenile female. SSA FARRIS said no one was accusing Detective SIEBENALER of intentionally shooting the juvenile. SA MANESS and SSA FARRIS turned off the recording equipment and stepped out of the room and allowed Detective SIEBENALER to speak with MCCAULEY, with the understanding if Detective SIBENALER or MCCAULEY had any further questions, the conversation could resume. A short time later, MCCAULEY stepped out and said they did not need anything further and were going to leave. SA MANESS and SSA FARRIS thanked them for their time and they departed the office shortly after 1:00 p.m.

Attachments: Disc containing interview

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CASE No. KBI22-167 REPORT No. 50 ATTACHMENT No. 1

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